

CLAIMS

1-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method of handling an incoming call for a wireless communications device, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving an incoming call at the wireless communications device ~~on over~~ a control channel of a wireless communications system;

selecting, at the wireless communications device, one of a plurality of pre-recorded messages to play back to a caller of the incoming call, wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages are stored at a voice message mailbox in the wireless communications system ~~allocated to the wireless communications device~~; and

transmitting an identification of the selected pre-recorded message to the wireless communications system ~~on over~~ the control channel, ~~wherein the incoming call is directed to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device and the selected one of the plurality of pre-recorded messages is played back to the caller of the incoming call.~~

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~the transmitting step includes transmitting a registration frame to a local base station in the wireless communications system, the registration frame including a plurality of bits identifying the selected pre-recorded message~~

transmitting an identification of the selected pre-recorded message comprises transmitting a plurality of bits identifying the selected pre-recorded message in a registration frame to a base station.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the selected pre-recorded message is selected manually by a user of the wireless communications device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the manual selection is accomplished by depressing keys on a keypad included on the wireless communications device to identify the selected pre-recorded message.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: identifying a source of the incoming call, wherein selection of the ~~selected one of the plurality of pre-recorded messages~~ message is based on the identified source.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~wherein the wireless communications device includes a phone book having stored phone numbers personal to a user of the wireless communications device, the stored phone numbers associated with the plurality of pre-recorded messages based on the user's preference, said method further comprising the steps of:~~

storing, in a phone book on the wireless communications device, one or more phone numbers associated with the plurality of pre-recorded messages;

identifying a phone number of a source of the incoming call;

comparing the identified phone number with the ~~stored one or more phone number numbers stored~~ in the phone book; and

if the identified phone number matches one of the stored phone numbers, transmitting an identification of the pre-recorded message associated with the matched stored phone number to the wireless communications system on the control channel as the selected pre-recorded message.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

if the identified phone number does not match any of the stored phone numbers,  
transmitting an identification of a default pre-recorded message to the wireless  
communications system on the control channel as the selected pre-recorded  
message.

*a1* 12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

if the matched stored phone number does not have an associated pre-recorded  
message, transmitting an identification of a default pre-recorded message to the  
wireless communications system on the control channel as the selected pre-  
recorded message.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of handling an incoming call during an operational mode of a wireless communications device, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

with the operational mode activated, receiving an incoming call at the wireless communications device ~~on over~~ a control channel of a wireless communications system;

identifying a source of the incoming call;

selecting, at the wireless communications device, one of a plurality of pre-recorded messages to play back to the source of the incoming call based on the identified source, wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages stored at a voice message mailbox in the wireless communications system allocated to the wireless communications device; and

diverting the incoming call to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device, wherein the selected pre-recorded message is played back for the source of the incoming call.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~the diverting step diverting the incoming call comprises the step of:~~

transmitting an identification of the selected pre-recorded message to the wireless communications system ~~on over~~ the control channel;

transferring the incoming call to the voice message mailbox; and

playing back the selected pre-recorded message for the source of the incoming call

~~, wherein the incoming call is directed to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device and the selected pre-recorded message is played back for the source of the incoming call.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein ~~the transmitting step includes transmitting a registration frame to a local base station in the wireless communications system, the registration frame including a plurality of bits identifying the selected pre-recorded message~~ transmitting an identification of the selected pre-recorded message comprises transmitting a plurality of bits identifying the selected pre-recorded message in a registration frame to a base station.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein selection of the selected pre-recorded message and transmission of the identification of the selected pre-recorded message are performed automatically by the wireless communications device upon receipt of the incoming call.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the selected pre-recorded message is selected manually by a user of the wireless communications device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the manual selection is accomplished by depressing keys on a keypad included on the wireless communications device to identify the selected pre-recorded message.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the identifying step includes activating caller ID circuitry in the wireless communications device to identify a phone number of the source of the incoming call.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, ~~wherein the wireless communications device includes a phone book having stored phone numbers personal to a user of the mobile communications device, the stored phone numbers associated with the plurality of a pre-recorded messages based on the user's preference, said method further comprising the steps of:~~

storing, in a phone book on the wireless communications device, one or more phone numbers associated with the plurality of pre-recorded messages;

comparing the identified phone number with the stored phone numbers in the phone book; and

if the identified phone number matches one of the stored phone numbers, diverting the incoming call to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device, wherein the pre-recorded message associated with the matched stored phone number is played back for the source of the incoming call as the selected pre-recorded message.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:

if the identified phone number does not match any of the stored phone numbers, diverting the incoming call to the voice message mailbox of the wireless communications device, wherein a default pre-recorded message is played back for the source of the incoming call as the selected pre-recorded message.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the operational mode of the wireless communications device comprises an unavailable mode in which a user of the wireless communications device is not receiving incoming calls, wherein the unavailable mode is activated automatically or manually by the user of the wireless communications device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages stored at the voice message mailbox in the wireless communications system ~~allocated to the wireless communications device~~ are recorded by a user of the mobile communications device.